

MINERS TOOK THEIR OATH TO KILL FIVE FOR EVERY ONE MASSACRED AT LUDLOW

BY EDWARD A. EVANS

Trinidad, Col., May 1.—Bullet and flame have avenged the twenty-two women and children who died by flame and bullet in the Ludlow massacre, that all day horror of April 20.

The blood debt has been paid in blood by coal mine strikers from Greece, Italy, and the other countries of Southern Europe—men whose minds never have learned better than to exact the Mosaic penalty of an eye for an eye.

Except, that these strikers demand a FIVE-FOLD revenge!

And these foreign men were not alone when it came to avenge. There were Scotchmen and Welshmen and Irishmen in the bands that swept the hills, and too, there were American born men.

Down from the mountain tops today came the story to me of that death pledge—the story and picture of as dramatic a scene as was ever enacted on American soil.

Over the dead body of Louis Tikas, leader of the Greeks in Ludlow tent colony, in the presence of the corpses of the little children, these foreign men who have fought on terrific battlefields in the Balkans and in Tripoli, took a solemn oath TO KILL FIVE MEN FOR EVERY HUMAN LIFE TAKEN BY THE MINE GUARDS and uniformed gunmen at Ludlow!

Rifle butts that had pressed shoulders in battling the brutal Turk were pounded on the floor to give emphasis to the oath and union in revenge was pledged with clashing steel of rifle barrels.

Fulfillment began at Forbes, where the Rocky Mountain Fuel Co. had a big mine. Neither entreaties of their leaders, nor a howling storm of rain and sleet, could turn the avengers aside from their purpose and they made the attack at daybreak.

When they left, three hours later, at least seven mine guards and strikebreakers lay dead, many of the buildings of the mine and camp were in ashes, and women, children and unarmed strikebreakers had been allowed to seek safety in the mouth of the mine.

"For," said the strike leaders, "we don't seek to kill helpless or defenseless ones. We will avenge the death of our friends on strong, armed men."

Every one of the strikers who attacked Forbes had lived, it is asserted, in the Ludlow tent colony, which now lies in ashes. Many of them had lost relatives or dear friends in the massacre there.

But it was not alone the Ludlow murderers that were paid for by the

mine guards killed at Forbes. That mine long has been known as one of the worst in the whole Colorado district.

In it men were forced to work inhuman hours, were cheated by dishonest coal weighers, were robbed by company stores and were enticed to spend their money for disgraceful debauches in company saloons and disreputable houses.

At the beginning of the strike, men from this mine built a tent colony in the mouth of Forbes canon. Once this colony was swept by machine gun bullets fired by treacherous guards and men and boys were killed, and once it was razed by the state militia, the strikers being left in a bitter snowstorm, without homes.

These outrages rankled in their mediaeval minds, and they grasped the rifle and the torch—the weapons which had been turned upon them and their families at Ludlow.

The arrival of the federal troops from Fort Leavenworth was the only